
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6383

AN ACT CONCERNING HIRING STANDARDS FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS.

SUMMARY:

This bill creates hiring standards for school and school district athletic directors, requires that all directors hired on or after July 1, 2013 meet the new standards, and permits those hired before that date to continue in their current job even if they do not meet the standards. It also establishes duties for all school and school district athletic directors.

It also makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR STANDARDS

The bill defines “athletic director” as someone responsible for (1) administering the athletic program of a school or school district under a local or regional board of education and (2) supervising athletic coaches.

The bill establishes two levels of athletic director qualifications, one for school director and one for school district director. Both standards apply to those hired on or after July 1, 2013.

New Standards

A school athletic director must hold a State Board of Education (SBE)-issued coaching permit and a (1) state teaching certificate or (2) national athletic administrators association-issued certificate, as approved by the State Department of Education (SDE).

A school district director must hold a SBE-issued coaching permit and a (1) state teacher’s certificate with an intermediate administrator

and supervisor endorsement or (2) national athletic administrators association-issued master certificate, as approved by SDE.

Under the bill, any director responsible for evaluating coaches who are certified teachers, administrators, or other certified school staff must hold a state teacher's certificate with an intermediate administrator and supervisor endorsement.

Existing Athletic Directors

School or school district athletic directors hired before July 1, 2013, who do not meet the new standards can continue to serve in their current positions. The bill prevents any local or regional board of education from hiring a person "grandfathered" in at another district for its district, unless the person can meet the bill's standards.

DIRECTOR DUTIES

The bill states an athletic director's responsibilities, which apply whether the person directs a program for a school or a district. They include:

1. ensuring that each athletic coach in the athletic program holds a SBE-issued coaching permit;
2. supervising and evaluating athletic coaches, according to the bill's provisions;
3. supervising students participating in intramural or interscholastic athletics;
4. possessing knowledge and understanding of the governing authority for intramural and interscholastic athletics and the related rules and regulations;
5. administering and arranging the scheduling of and transportation to athletic activities and events;
6. administering and arranging the scheduling, transportation, and hiring of officials;

7. ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all athletic activities and events; and
8. any other duties relevant to the organization and administration of the athletic program for the school or school district.

The bill also makes conforming changes to the law requiring coaches to be evaluated by their supervisors annually.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 1 (03/13/2013)